

'Deaf Expo' homecoming conference to showcase deaf-friendly technology

Any triennial reunion is an event anticipated and enjoyed for its opportunities to renew old friendships and to look nostalgically at the past. However, the Gallaudet University Alumni Association's 35th Triennial Reunion, to be held October 25-29, will also take participants into the future—if they attend "Deaf Expo: Looking Toward 2000," the annual homecoming conference that is offered this year October 25-27, right at the beginning of the big reunion.

The conference is designed to give deaf and hard of hearing people and people who live or work with them an up-to-date experience of technology today and a glimpse toward future technology.

"As we approach the 21st century, we are witnessing and feeling the effects of life in a rapidly changing world," said Mary Anne Pugin, director of Alumni Relations and executive director of the GUAA. "It's a challenge to keep up—or even to catch up!—and I believe the Deaf Expo: Looking Toward 2000 conference will offer Gallaudet alumni a rare opportunity to get a firsthand look at the technology that's here now and what we can expect in the future. This conference is important, probably even necessary, and I'm especially delighted we're sponsoring the GUAA 35th Triennial Reunion in conjunction with the conference."

The Deaf Expo conference is co-sponsored by the College for Continuing Education, the Office of Alumni Relations, the Technology Assessment Program, the GUAA, and the National Association of the Deaf, Telecommunications Section.

In addition to two days of concurrent sessions, the conference will include two keynote speakers. Vinton Cerf, who is often referred to as the "Father of the Internet," will talk about the Internet today and the information infrastructure in "Enabling Technologies for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community." Cerf is a senior vice president for Data Architecture, a part of MCI's Data and Information Services Division of MCI Business Markets.

The other keynote speaker is Paul Singleton, '80, a program analyst for the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program of the Department of Defense, Assistant Secretary for Defense. He will discuss technology that would enhance the workplace in the 21st century for deaf and hard of hearing people in his presentation, "Year 2000: Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing People Ready? Today's Technology Says: You Bet!"

"This conference presents a unique opportunity for deaf and hard of hearing people of all ages to come together and explore how technology influences their daily lives," said Dave Frank, coordinator of training and outreach for Continuing Education and Outreach, a unit of CCE. "It is important for them to be aware of the existing and emerging technology and how they can utilize it as they enter the 21st century."

In addition, an all-day preconference workshop—"Understanding the Difference in Language Acquisition Between Adults and Children"—will be given by Marie Philip, bilingual/bicultural coordinator for The Learning Center for Deaf Children in Framingham, Mass. The workshop is cosponsored by the Nation's Capital American Sign Language Teachers Association and Gallaudet's CCE.

For registration materials or more information about the preconference workshop or about attending or exhibiting at Deaf Expo: Looking Toward 2000, call CCE at 651-5733. (You must dial 9 and the full number.) For information about the reunion, contact Daphne Cox McGregor, '82, assistant director of Alumni Relations, at x5081 (TTY), x5060 (V), or e-mail DCMCGREGOR.

Deaf lawyer tells of discriminatory laws in history

Throughout history, paternalistic attitudes toward deaf people have been embodied in laws that denied them the right to take responsibility for their own lives and to independence, deaf lawyer Andrew Firth told his audience at a recent lecture in Ely Auditorium entitled "Equal in the Eyes of the Law?: Legal Perceptions of Deaf People Throughout History."

Firth, formerly an attorney in Gallaudet's National Center for Law and Deafness, is now a government affairs manager for the National Association of the Deaf.

Discriminatory laws against deaf people, said Firth, included those of past centuries in England that declared a deaf person's signature on a legal contract or will invalid because of the assumption that deaf people were "idiots." A deaf person's family could easily challenge his or her will on the basis of the person's deafness. In this century, similar laws in some places prohibited deaf people from driving.

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Jean Berube leads a Discovery workshop at Tsukuba College of Technology. In this activity, YSP and Japanese students race the clock to build a car out of plastic pieces.

YSP launches first trip abroad

Students from the Young Scholars Program (YSP) and the MSSD Performing Arts Program's Road Show spent a jam-packed two weeks in Japan getting firsthand exposure to Japanese life and sharing their talents with deaf and hearing Japanese audiences.

From July 4 to 17, the students visited Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, and other cities. The YSP students, from schools across the United States and Canada, participated in workshops in creative sign language, theater dance, and the teamwork-building Personal Discovery program. The Road Show crew performed on stages before enthusiastic audiences. The YSP and Road Show students also collaborated on a compressed version of MSSD's spring play *Kakurenbo*.

The extraordinary and enthusiastic logistical planning and fund raising support of Soji Teramura were key factors in the success of the trip. Teramura is a member of Gallaudet's Board of Associates and is the chair of Teramura International, a consulting firm that helps orchestrate corporate mergers.

The tour, which marked the first international venture for YSP, was an outgrowth of last summer's program at Gallaudet, where the students studied Japanese culture.

The workshops helped the Japanese people see that deaf people can take leadership roles—a concept not widely accepted in Japan. And through the performances, they saw that the artistic abilities of the deaf actors were of a professional caliber.

"The Japanese will never view deaf people the same way again," said YSP director Richard Meisegeier. "The Japanese hearing people were amazed at what deaf people can achieve."

Interpreting was another area

where the group helped to make inroads, said Dr. Meisegeier, who is also a professor of sociology and director of Gallaudet's Honors Program. "We insisted that everything that was spoken had to be interpreted, not just summarized in a few words, as often happens in Japan. That was totally new to them."

A bonus to the students, faculty, and staff was being able to meet with Gallaudet President I. King Jordan and his wife, Linda. The Jordans, who met with Japan's Prince and Princess Akishino at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo the day before the group arrived, met the YSP group on July 7 at a reception held in their honor at the Japan Federation for the Deaf in Osaka. The Jordans also saw the YSP and Road Show at their performance at Kinki University in Osaka.

Tim McCarty, artistic director of the Performing Arts Program at MSSD, recalled that in Tokyo, at the prestigious 750-seat Apple Theater, an estimated 1,000 people—about 60 percent of whom were deaf—packed in for the final performance given by the Road Show and YSP. The performance was followed by a traditional Noh theater piece performed by a deaf Japanese group. This was the first time, added Meisegeier, that deaf actors from Japan had ever performed on a professional stage of this stature.

McCarty said that hearing people in Japan were curious about sign language, deaf culture, and how deaf people dance without being able to hear. "The deaf people wanted to be as close to us as possible, and every night groups of deaf people would show up at our hotel. Deaf people who attended workshops followed us to the next workshop, sometimes driving three or four hours." McCarty added, "I think our kids

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Dr. Dillehay discusses deaf scientists

The number of deaf people working in the field of science is increasing, said Dr. Jane Dillehay, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and biology professor at a July 11 presentation, "Deaf People in Science and Science Education," in Ely Auditorium.

Regardless, recruitment efforts need to be increased, and more studies on deaf scientists need to be conducted. "Deaf scientists are successful," Dillehay said, "but seriously under-represented in proportion to the number of deaf people in the population."

Noted deaf scientists have included two Nobel Prize laureates, Dillehay said. They are Charles Henri Nicolle, for his work on controlling typhus fever, and Sir John Cornforth, for his cholesterol research. Two other deaf scientists have been nominated for the award: astrophysicist Henrietta Swan Leavitt and Oliver Heaviside, for his work in telephone transmission theory.

"Where are the deaf women scientists?" asked Dillehay. "Where are the deaf black, Hispanic, Asian, and American Indian scientists?" There are 10,000 people obtaining Ph.D.s every year, but Dillehay has only been able to identify five deaf people who are currently working toward a doctorate in science.

A challenge facing people interested in learning more about deaf scientists is the fact that deafness tends to be invisible. "When deaf people publish a paper, they're not identified as deaf," said Dillehay. One of her primary sources of information was the *Resource Directory of Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities*, published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a directory based on self-reporting. Dillehay also located current deaf scientists via the Career Information Registry at the National Information Center on Deafness and through personal contacts.

Factors that enable deaf people to become scientists, according to Dillehay, include support from one's family, high self-esteem, persistence, adaptability, a sense of humor, access to education and information, well-developed strategies for overcoming communication barriers with hearing people, and

accommodations for and awareness of the deaf person's needs.

One barrier Dillehay noted is that 70 percent of all deaf college students withdraw before obtaining a degree. Another problem is inadequate math preparation. Students who do best in college science courses are usually those who score at the 90th percentile or above in high school math, yet 90 percent of Gallaudet freshmen need remedial math.

Precollege science preparation is also a problem because many science teachers of deaf students are not themselves knowledgeable in science—only 3.4 percent have undergraduate degrees in the field. Fifty percent have not taken courses in science teaching methods because most deaf education programs do not require a course in science pedagogy, Dillehay said. She suggested that science teachers working with deaf students take advantage of teacher training opportunities such as the Summer Institute in Biology held at Gallaudet and attend science teachers' meetings.

More deaf science teachers are needed as role models, Dillehay asserted; only 10 percent of high school science teachers in schools for deaf students are themselves deaf. Also, the accomplishments of deaf scientists need to be better publicized.

Dillehay's lecture was part of the Deaf Enrichment and Arts Festival, sponsored by the College for Continuing Education.

Old laws show hearing bias

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In the United States, as recently as a generation ago, it was illegal in some states to have a sexual relationship with—as at least one law stated it—a "deaf and dumb woman." In Virginia, Firth said, the penalty for violating this law was a sentence of up to five years in prison.

In marriages between deaf and hearing people, deaf parents still find that divorce courts favor the hearing parent in child custody battles, Firth said. Other deaf parents in history have had their children taken away by the state on the assumption that they cannot be good parents. This bias was particularly held in the case of hearing children who, state agencies believed, were being denied exposure to spoken English at home.

In some cases, Firth said, the state even assumed that an institutional environment with hearing people was better for the children than staying with their deaf parents.

"Those assumptions are what kept the deaf community down for a long time," Firth said. Even now, the most significant law that protects the rights of deaf people—the Americans with Disabilities Act—is under fire, he said. Firth explained that Senator Robert Dole, a republican presidential candidate in the 1996 election, has asserted that the ADA goes "too far" and is too expensive.

It is important for the deaf community to speak up for the ADA, said Firth. "The law itself won't change attitudes, but it's a start," he said.

Firth's lecture was part of a series of lectures in the College for Continuing Education's annual Deaf Enrichment and Arts Festival.



CAS Dean and biology Professor Jane Dillehay (center) and MSSD science teachers Mary Ellsworth and Fred Bone admire the bench dedicated to Paul Cunningham, who, at the time of his death in 1992, was former chair of the Biology Department. Cunningham started teaching science at MSSD in 1970 and began teaching at the University in 1983.

Tour opens Japan to deaf talent

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and faculty were heroes to them."

The Gallaudet group handled this admiration with modesty. "They were very moved by the enthusiastic response," said McCarty. "It gave them the commitment to bring about change for deaf people throughout the world."

The trip also launched a new phase for YSP—home study of a country one summer, followed by visits to the country the next—if funds can be raised. This past summer, YSP students at Gallaudet studied Russian culture, and plans are being made for the same group to visit Russia in 1996. Other countries on the agenda are India, Brazil, South Africa, Puerto Rico, and Australia.

Another important part of YSP is the Summer Science Program, where talented youth come to Gallaudet to study a topic in science. This year, the group, led by chemistry Professor Michael Moore and physics Professor David Snyder, investigated the role of computers in environmental science. The group's activities included visiting deaf scientists at work and talking with them about their careers.

The trip to Japan would not have been possible without the support of several sponsors, primarily the Japan

Foundation Center for Global Partnership of New York, N.Y., which gave \$70,000 to help finance the trip. The center made this generous donation after it received a proposal prepared by Gallaudet's Development Office, with assistance by Teramura and Meisegeier.

Teramura, who has close ties to the Japanese business community, was initially told of Gallaudet's plans for the Japan trip by 1994 YSP artist-in-residence Shizumi Shigeto Manale. Teramura visited the University last fall and helped put together the successful proposal. Through his work with Gallaudet, Teramura became very interested in the University's programs and became a member of the Board of Associates.

Correction

In a July 17 article, "Faculty receive tenure, promotions," a subhead, "School of Education and Human Services," was omitted. The following faculty members are in SEHS: Assistant Professor Sarah Doleac, Associate Professor Kathryn Baldrige, and Associate Professor Ann Graziadei, all of the Department of Physical Education and Recreation; and Associate Professor Jan Hafer, of the Education Department.

Classified Ads

Classified ads are published in the printed and on-line versions of *On the Green* for Gallaudet faculty and staff. All ads must be written and submitted in person or by mail to *On the Green*, MSSD, Room G-37. Off-campus phone numbers must include an area code. In compliance with the Education of the Deaf Act of 1992, as amended, payment of \$1 per ad per week must accompany each ad. The deadline is Friday, three days before the on-line version and 10 days before the printed version. Ads received Aug. 7-11 will be posted Aug. 14 or printed Aug. 21. Because on-line ads appear weekly and printed ads are published every two weeks, items that are first advertised on-line may no longer be available.

FOR SALE: Light oak computer cart, \$50; cherry wood student desk, \$60; whitewashed oak corner computer desk, \$125. Call (301) 776-5306 or e-mail ABKELLY.

FOR RENT: 3-BR townhouse, 2 1/2 BA, W/D, DW, w/w carpet, AC, 30 min. to campus, non-smokers only, avail. Sept. 1, \$845/mo. plus deposit. Call Laird, (410) 721-7064.

FOR SALE: 4 dinette chairs (white metal bentwood look); captain's bed and 1 or 2 twin mattresses, (accommodates full, king, or 2 twin mattresses). E-mail LJDPIETRO.

FOR SALE: Oak desk w/chair, \$40; laundry basket, \$4; bed, \$30; small 2-door closet, \$10; humidifier, \$10; 2 heaters, \$5, \$8;

sofabed, \$100/BO. Call Espie, (202) 543-7390 (TTY) or e-mail I1EDADIVAS.

FOR RENT: 1-BR furnished basement apt. betw. Stadium Armory and Potomac Ave. Metros, avail. Sept. 1 to resp., nonsmoking tenant, must have own phone, no separate entrance, \$400/mo. incl. util. Call Germaine, (202) 546-3573 (V).

FOR SALE: Top-floor, 1-BR condo in Capitol Hill, sunny western exposure. Call Jean, (301) 322-2638 (V/TTY) or e-mail JCLINDQUIST.

FOR SALE: Simulated wood table w/4 leather-like chairs, \$70; mattress, \$45; chest of drawers, \$20; 2-carat sapphire w/11 diamonds, \$1,000 w/free gift of Rolex navy watch w/diamond; Smith-Corona typewriter, \$50; new AC, \$300; all BO. Call Carol through Wayne, (202) 529-1048 eves.

FOR RENT: To female nonsmoker, large room in Beltsville, Md., large walk-in closets, private BA, w/w carpet, pool, nice neighborhood, near bus, \$350/mo. incl. util. or \$250/mo. and occasional babysitting. Call Tonya, x4449, (301) 937-9119 (V) eves., or e-mail TLLANDIS.

FOR RENT: Spacious mobile home in Fenwick Island, Del., north of Ocean City, Md., 2 BR, 2 BA, AC, W/D, DW, full kitchen, pool access, \$65/night for 1 or 2 nights, \$60/night for 3 nights, \$55/night for 4 nights, \$50/night for 5 or more nights. Call Dwight, x5255 or e-mail ADBENEDICT.

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